



NEWS RELEASE

IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

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IWRB EXTENDS PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON DRAFT SOUTH FORK CLEARWATER PLAN

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The Idaho Water Resource Board has decided to give the public an extra month to let the Board know what they think about the draft South Fork Clearwater River Comprehensive State Water Plan, Board officials have announced.

The public comment period has been extended through the close of business on Dec. 17, 2003. Public comment had been scheduled to end November 17.

The move stems from requests for the public to have more time to prepare and file comments about the plan, Board officials said.

The draft plan focuses on the conservation, development, management, and optimum use of unappropriated water resources and waterways in the basin. The basin covers over 1,175 square miles and is located in Idaho County.

The plan describes and evaluates the water resources and related economic, cultural and natural resources of the basin, and their current uses. It contains the Board's recommendations for managing the water resources in the basin, and identifies stream reaches that will be proposed for protected river status. The plan also sets out stream reaches for which the Board will apply for minimum stream flows.

The draft plan is available on the Internet at:
www.idwr.state.id.us/waterboard/Planning/SF%20Clearwater/South%20Fk.htm. The web site also provides the means to let people file comments on the plan via email.

Electronic copies on CD and paper copies are also available and can be obtained by contacting Thomas Grant at tgrant@idwr.state.id.us or at 208-327-7900.